

DRAFT

# City of Olympia | Call for Public Art

## West Bay Drive Art Crossing



### Short Description

The City of Olympia is seeking an artist or artist team to develop site-specific artwork as part of the Olympia Art Crossings Project. **Olympia Crossings: An Art Plan for City Gateways** identifies eight locations for art, located along Civic Boulevards, based in neighborhoods but located at the primary thresholds approximately a mile from the center of downtown Olympia. The artist or artist team will be expected to develop an artwork in response to the neighborhood and community in which the artwork is located. A set of paired Markers are recommended at each site, scaled to be read at the scale of the boulevards. Placemaking is also required that is specific to the opportunities for each site, to enhance the pedestrian experience day and night. “Olympia Crossings” is the theme of the project and overarching concept. Artists are encouraged to contemplate and interpret this theme in the development of their artwork.

### Primary Contact

Stephanie Johnson, Arts Program Manager  
sjohnso1@ci.olympia.wa.us  
360-709-2678

### Budget

The total project budget for artwork is \$50,000. The allotted funds must cover all costs related to the supply of the work(s) of art including but not limited design, engineering, lighting fixture(s), fabrication, transportation and delivery, as well as insurance, artist’s fee, applicable taxes and travel expenses associated with the project. The City is responsible for site preparation and installation.

## Eligibility

This opportunity is available to artists with a strong connection to the city of Olympia, WA. Olympia-based artists and/or artist teams are strongly encouraged to apply. City of Olympia Staff, Commissioners, Panel Members, Project Personnel, and immediate family members of all of the above are not eligible to apply.

## Deadline

Applications are due by **Midnight, Monday, XXXXX (PDT)**.

## General Description

### Introduction

The City of Olympia has collaborated with the arts management team of Framework Cultural Placemaking and Perri Howard to identify sites, concepts, and opportunities for artwork integration at the Olympia gateways. The City of Olympia has identified opportunities for an artist or artist team to develop site-specific artwork for each gateway and provide the following benefits:

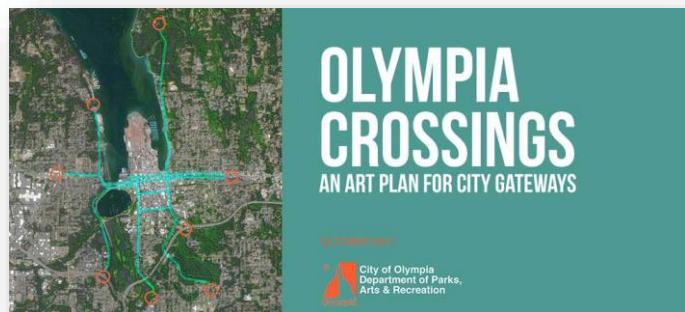
- A welcoming artwork that marks a threshold within or at the edge of the City of Olympia.
- Increased presence of arts and culture in Olympia's neighborhoods.
- Connections to nature, water, community assets, history and the place of Olympia as the State Capital
- A stronger sense of place and stronger relationship between adjacent neighborhoods.

## West Bay description

The three Neighborhood Associations closest to the project area are West Bay Drive, Burbank/Eliot and Northwest (NWONA). Of the three, NWONA is the largest, geographically, and in community participation. Meetings range from 40-140 in attendance, and the neighbors greatly value their social network and connectedness. Neighbors appreciate their area's individuality - in the architecture (from Victorian to Mid-Century Modern), and quirkiness of activities (from sounds of the Artesian Rumble Arkestra rehearsals to singing bicyclists in top hat and tails). They appreciate the topography of their area, from forested ravines to the fact that there are no arterials running through their neighborhood, leaving a maze of roads and alleys for exploration. Finally, they appreciate the natural world that inundates their community: frog chorus, deer and squirrels, the heron rookery, views of the water, cedar and fruit trees. They take pride that their neighborhood is not fancy, shiny or glossy, but simple.

## Research the Project

[www.olympiawa.gov/artplan](http://www.olympiawa.gov/artplan)



## From Olympia Crossings: An Art Plan for City Gateways

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### THEME

The overall theme is "Crossings," with the art based on ideas of connecting, weaving together people and places; boulevards and gateways; land and water across time and topography.

#### PLACE MARKERS

Art at each site will include a pair of sculptural Markers, scaled to the boulevard and the city. The pairing of the Markers should reflect the idea of crossing.

The Markers should be made of multiple pieces, representing the interplay and crossings between individual and the whole; the crossing of thread within the fabric.

#### PLACE MAKING

Art at each site will include treatment at the human scale that considers the ground plane and elements that capture the specific opportunities of the site, and support the identity and public life of the neighborhood.

#### GROUND PLANE

Each Crossing location should address the ground plane in a way specific to the site. The treatment of the ground plane should draw on the idea of the connection and crossing.

#### LANDSCAPE

Include landscape as an integral and supportive element to the art, specific to the site.

#### SAFETY

Art should be designed to avoid any safety problems for people near the art or for drivers.

#### DURABILITY

Art should be of lasting materials, and easy to maintain.

#### DAY & NIGHT

Each of the crossings should be lit, with consideration to appearance during daylight and after dark.

#### ARTIST SELECTION

Include artists with a strong connection to Olympia, and nurture skills through mentoring where needed.

#### INITIAL PROJECTS

Select the first projects for a high level of visibility and community support. Consider early place making at sites scheduled for later implementation.

#### GUIDING THE PROCESS

Use the art crossings design process as a way to build community and foster creativity.

### Scope of Work

The selected artist or team will develop and create a new site-specific artwork in response to the West Bay Drive Crossing location, the adjacent neighborhoods, and in response to the theme "Olympia Crossings."

The artwork may include a variety of diverse media including light, wayfinding elements, artist made amenities, or sculptural forms. The artwork should have a strong ongoing physical presence within the designated site area. The artwork must be suitable for diverse audiences and be able to withstand wet seasonal weather conditions. Artists are required to follow best practices as defined in the [Materials and Fabrication Handbook](#) developed by ArtsWA.

The artist will consider "Olympia Crossings" as it relates to the local community, the rest of the gateway system, and surrounding area. The artist will design and fabricate the artwork on a mutually agreed timeline with the City.

## **SUBMISSION/SELECTION PROCESS**

### Phase I—Submission of Application:

#### **Selection Committee**

Bob Droll, Landscape Architect  
Diana Fairbanks, Olympia Arts Commission  
Carole Richmond, Planning Commissioner  
Kendra Sawyer, Neighborhood Representative  
Mayor Cheryl Selby, Olympia

The panel reserves the right to select up to three artists or artist teams as finalists for this opportunity. The panel also reserves the right to not select any artists, if it so chooses.

Emerging artists or artists with little public art experience are encouraged to apply, indicating the support they would need to be able to create successful public art. The selected artist/team will have up to 4 hours consultation time to review their proposed concept plan with the City's on-call Landscape Architect.

#### **Selection criteria**

In addition to overall artistic excellence (artistic ability, originality, technical competency, material integrity, craftsmanship, uniqueness of vision) as represented in the applicant's digital work examples, the applicant's written materials will be used to judge the artist/team's ability to:

- Demonstrate interest in furthering artistic practice and creating permanent public artworks
- Think and work with durable materials, and in a scale that is appropriate to the site
- Create an artwork responsive to the site and community context, and that tells a story
- Ability to relate to multiple types of viewers, in different mode of transportation
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects of similar scale and context, or show ability to take on a large project by progression of completed work.
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and on budget

#### **Application Materials**

Applicants may apply via US MAIL (**postmarked XXX or earlier**) or City FTP site.

**US Mail**, please upload all documents onto one CD, jump drive or other "disposable" media that need not be returned. **Do not submit applications in individual binders or folders – staples or paper clips only. Please submit an original and five copies of all written materials collated in the exact order as listed below.**

Send to: Stephanie Johnson  
Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation  
222 Columbia St NW  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Digital packets** may be downloaded to the City FTP site: <http://olympiawa.gov/ftp> Do not embed images in a Power Point, PDF, iPhoto or any other library files. "Recipient" is [sjohnso1@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sjohnso1@ci.olympia.wa.us) The written documents (Letter of Interest, Image List, Resume, and references) should be sent as .pdf files.

**Letter of Interest (500 words or less)**

Describe why this opportunity is of interest, general approach to concepts and designs for this Art Crossings project, and relevant skills brought to this project. Also describe your connection to Olympia.

If the applicant is applying as a team, one team member should self-identify as the lead artist and the Letter of Interest should include a brief description of how the team works together or general philosophical approach to the collaboration.

**Digital Work Samples**

Applicants may submit up to 8 images that clearly show past projects and work experience. Files should be prepared as .jpg files only and must be 1920 pixels on the longest side and 72 dpi. Files should be labeled "01OGP\_last name, 02OGP\_last name", etc.

**Annotated Image List**

This list of images may include the budget, location, client or commissioning agency, title, year, media, and a brief description (50 words or less) of the applicant's role in the project.

**Resume**

Applicants must include a resume, two pages maximum. If submitting as a team, the applicant should include resumes for all team members, two pages maximum for each team member.

**References**

Contact information for three professional references who are familiar with your work and technical abilities. Please do not include letters of recommendation. References will be contacted prior to the finalist interviews.

**Do not submit specific proposals or additional information at this time.**

The City intends to return all CDs in the condition received, if an SASE is provided, although it cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

## Phase II—Finalist Interviews:

Each finalist will be interviewed by the same selection committee as in Phase I.

During finalist interviews, the work of the finalist will be to convince the selection committee that the artist/team possesses the knowledge skills and competencies necessary to realize the vision and objectives outlined in this prospectus, including but not limited to:

- Appropriateness of artist and their work to the opportunities of the site.
- Strong concept and design skills.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

### **Artist Selection Schedule**

Invitational Sent	TBD
Workshop for interested applicants	TBD
Deadline for Entry	TBD
Jury process	TBD
Arts Commission review	TBD
Finalist interviews	TBD
Arts Commission review	TBD
City Council approval	TBD

### **Contact Information**

Questions?

Stephanie Johnson, Arts Program Manager  
Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation  
sjohnson@ci.olympia.wa.us  
360.709.2678

### **Legal Requirements**

Applicants must have, or be willing to acquire an Olympia Business license, if selected. For more information, go to <http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/forms/busn-license-bo-tax/business-license.aspx>

The selected artist will be required to carry insurance. Specific coverages are included in the contract the selected artist will execute with the City.

***The City reserves the right not to select any artist at all, and reserves the right to change the process or schedule upon public notice.***